



# Canceled Vote in Haiti Is Seen As Namphy Bid to Keep Power

By Julia Preston  
Washington Post Service

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, the leader of the military government, has moved in dissolving an independent electoral council and canceling national elections to ensure himself a prolonged hold on power, according to Western diplomats and politicians.

His actions set the stage for a potentially violent confrontation between politicians allied with the ousted dictator of Jean-Claude Duvalier and defectors of the electoral council and Sunday's canceled vote.

"It was a coup d'état against the constitution," one European diplomat said. He said that while the army has promised to hold new elections, "they'll have it the way they want it."

General Namphy's ruling National Government Council abolished election laws and halted the electoral process after Tonnes Macoutes, former members of disbanded Duvalier paramilitary squads, disrupted the vote by killing at least 25 persons and wounding more than 60 in Port-au-Prince.

General Namphy said the ruling council would organize another ballot and inaugurate a president by Feb. 7. Haiti has not had a free election in three decades.

By dawn Monday the bursts of gunfire that were heard across the city during the weekend had died down, and Haitians ventured out to stock up on food and gather news by word-of-mouth. Four of the five main radio stations in the capital

were not broadcasting news after Sunday's attacks.

The mood was one of frightened anticipation. Nearly all stores and businesses in the capital remained closed.

Most of the nine members of the defunct electoral council spent the Sunday night in hiding under the protection of local embassies. Alain Rocourt, the electoral council's treasurer, was preparing documents for a legal defense of the council's work, a relative said.

Some of the politicians who ran for president in the canceled elections refrained from criticizing the army directly for abetting the violence and appeared to accept General Namphy's offer of a new vote.

U.S. Embassy officials said they were surprised and disappointed by the violence Sunday. The embassy learned of General Namphy's decision to break up the electoral council from a Sunday afternoon communiqué, U.S. officials said.

"You don't have to like the electoral council to guard the people in the streets," said a U.S. official, referring to the armed forces' hands-off approach to the electoral violence. "You don't only protect people you like."

"The fact we supported the electoral council meant we thought highly of its work," a U.S. official noted. The United States gave more than \$6 million directly to the council.

Apparently referring to this aid, General Namphy accused the council of being influenced by foreigners.

"I can't imagine what General Namphy is referring to," a U.S. official said.

On Sunday the United States cut off all military aid and as much as \$40 million of its \$102 million eco-

nomic aid, leaving only its humanitarian assistance program intact.

Almost all the \$1.5 million military aid for this year has already been disbursed, officials said. But teams of U.S. military trainers, who have been working for the past 18 months with four elite Haitian battalions, were withdrawn.

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Louis Dejeo 2d, one of four front-runners, said in a cautious statement that he had taken note of General Namphy's "solemn pledge" to finish the transition to democracy.

Another front-runner, Marc Bazin, had refused to comment on the election's cancellation. In a communiqué Sunday, Mr. Bazin's party chastised the armed forces for "failing to make everyone respect the law." Mr. Bazin has yet to decide whether to participate in a election organized by the military.

Silvio Claude, a clergyman and candidate for the Christian Democratic Party, said he believed a fair election was impossible under the current government and called for its members to resign.

## ■ Travel Warning by U.S.

The United States issued a warning Tuesday against travel to Haiti and called on the military government of Haiti to "arrest, prosecute and punish" the gangs that disrupted national elections. United Press International reported from Washington.

A State Department spokesman, Charles E. Redman, said that the United States is consulting with other governments and the Organization of American States about the situation in Haiti. But he dismissed calls for a direct U.S. military intervention, saying, "There are no such plans."

The travel advisory by the State Department warns Americans to postpone "all nonessential travel" to Haiti.

Mr. Begin's days start early. He is up at dawn, reads the local news, has breakfast, then Yehiel Kadishai, his longtime personal aide, arrives with more Israeli and foreign newspapers. Mr. Kadishai brings along a cardboard file of letters, and Mr. Begin spends an hour or so going over correspondence. A housekeeper fixes lunch.

In the afternoon, his daughter Leah returns from her job as an El Al ground staffer and makes dinner. If there are no guests, Mr. Begin may spend the entire day in pajamas and robe. His son lives just around the corner and stops by almost daily.

Mr. Begin is an insatiable reader, and Mr. Kadishai struts to fill his appetite. In recent weeks he has read "Veil" by Bob Woodward and "Spycatcher" by Peter Wright. He devoured William Safire's 1,100-page "Freedom" in two days. Mr. Kadishai also brought him Jehan Sadat's memoirs, "Masters of the Game" by Sidney Sheldon, and "The Proud Tower" by Barbara Tuchman.

Friends say Mr. Kadishai knows the old man better perhaps than Mr. Begin's own family. But even he can only speculate about the big question: Why? "He never gave me an explanation. He feels like it, that is all. He's comfortable. He has got no obligations, no commitments. He doesn't want to involve himself. He doesn't want to interfere. He doesn't want to be a factor in the goings-on."

He saw early on that the only way to prevent being in the middle all the time was by not seeing anyone. This was behind the isolation in the beginning, and then he saw it was comfortable and doesn't harm anyone so he continued it. There were cabinet ministers who asked to see him again and again. They finally got tired.

"They come to see him now. He doesn't say no. But he won't be dragged in. If they make complaints, ask for his help, he listens politely and changes the subject."

## BEGIN: His Self-Exile Is Unbroken

(Continued from Page 1)  
er say it, in public or in private. But he feels it, and he suffers deeply.

"Think about it. The man leaves his house once a year. Where does he go? The cemetery. There is a burden on him that he will never let go."

Aliza died of a heart attack five months after the invasion while Mr. Begin was away on a trip to the United States. She was his strength, his defender and his friend. His guilt not being by his side and his sense of loss overwhelmed him. At the same time, Israel's economy was falling apart and the cabinet, once subordinate to the charismatic power of the old man, was disintegrating into a fractious mob of petty rivals at war with each other and with the leader they once had all revered.

His health, never good, seemed to collapse. His energy flagged. And so he chose to hide. For a while, his friends and disciples said he was only biding his time, gathering up strength before reentering the arena. He was planning his memoirs, eager to set the record straight and bask in the glory of history.

It never happened. Mr. Begin has stayed locked away. The memoirs, which were to be called "Generation of Holocaust and Redemption," were never started, the silence never broken.

Others have tried to pick up the flag. Mr. Begin's only son, Benjamin, has challenged Mr. Sharon publicly about the war, even opposed Mr. Sharon for a position at last year's Herut convention. Mr. Sharon won handily, a victory that signaled the passing of an era and indicated that even the faithful recognized their old leader was gone and not likely to return.

Menachem Begin stayed out of that fight, just as he shunned involvement in the last election campaign, in which his one-time close ally, Yitzhak Shamir, was narrowly defeated by the more dovish Labor Party and Shimon Peres, a long-time political enemy. Many in Herut blamed Mr. Begin for not campaigning, for abandoning them, for seeming not to care.

Mr. Hasten says Mr. Begin has energy but just doesn't want to expend it: "I saw him three weeks ago, and to me he looked as good as he did as prime minister, maybe even better. His mind is as clear as

ever. He still has a photographic memory, and he reads everything.

"We urge him to go out more, and we beg and plead with him to write his memoirs. But he's a stubborn man, and you can't talk him into anything. He responds when he feels the situation requires it. Otherwise, he's willing to let history make the final judgment."

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"They come to see him now. He doesn't say no. But he won't be dragged in. If they make complaints, ask for his help, he listens politely and changes the subject."

They were wrong.

Time passed and there was still no name. Voie AW15 is a continuation of Rue Georges Pitard, a lawyer and Resistance hero who actually lived several kilometers away on Rue Séguier. Other new streets between the playground and the Tati wall bear fresh signs to indicate that they bear Maurice Maingot (1822-1890), who founded a Catholic workers' center in Montparnasse, and Georges Leclanché (1839-1882) who invented an electric battery — an electric battery, not even the electric battery. And still Voie AW15 remained nameless.

"It's paved now, there are even accidents on it, but it has no name," Mr. Schults said. "We're in a kind of no-man's-land, that's what we're in."

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## Yale Scholar Wrote for Pro-Nazi Paper

*Belgian Discovery of Articles Shocks Colleagues of the Late Paul de Man*

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Documents have disclosed that Paul de Man, a Yale University professor who was considered one of the most brilliant intellectuals of his generation, wrote for an anti-Semitic, pro-Nazi newspaper in Belgium during World War II. The finding has stunned scholars.

Mr. de Man died at age 65 in December 1984. He was Sterling Professor of the Humanities at Yale, a post reserved for the university's brightest luminaries. Venerated as a teacher and scholar, he was the originator of a controversial theory of language that some say may place him among the great thinkers of his age.

A researcher in Belgium has found at least 100 previously unknown articles that Mr. de Man, who was born in Belgium, wrote in 1941 and 1942 for *Le Soir*, then a pro-Nazi newspaper. One of the articles addresses the question of whether Jews "pollute" modern fiction.

Several scholars predicted the information would fuel the debate over the ethical implications of Mr. de Man's theories and method, known as "deconstruction."

Deconstruction views language as a slippery and inherently false medium that always reflects the biases of its users.

Professor Raoul Hilberg, a Holocaust historian at the University of Vermont, said almost all educated Belgians knew by 1941 or, at the latest, 1942 that Jews were being sent eastward to be exterminated.

ty who was a close friend of Mr. de Man. "They seem so at odds with the sens of the person I knew later on."

At a memorial service for Mr. de Man, A. Bartlett Giamatti, then president of Yale, eulogized him as a "tremendous light for human life and learning" after whom "nothing for us will ever be the same."

A Belgian graduate student, Orwin de Graef, found in libraries last summer nearly 100 book reviews, concert notes and essays that Mr. de Man wrote for *Le Soir*.

At least one article, "The Jews and Contemporary Literature," strikes researchers as anti-Semitic, appearing in a special supplement on Jews in the March 4, 1941, edition.

Next to the essay is a caricature of Jews with horns and claws who, wearing prayer shawls, pray: "Jehovah will confound the gentiles."

"It shows the strength of our Western intellectuals that they could protect from Jewish influence a sphere as representative of the culture at large as literature," Mr. de Man wrote.

"Deconstructionism is nihilistic philosophy that makes moral or political beliefs impossible."

"It seems to me deconstruction is anti-historical," said R.W.B. Lewis, professor of American Studies at Yale. "It encourages skepticism about almost anything in the realm of human experience. That's one of the things I hold against it."

Mr. de Man's colleagues have decided to publish the Belgian articles in a special issue of the *Oxford Literary Review* next year, and to solicit comment from about 50 scholars among those who support and those who oppose Mr. de Man's work, Mr. Hertz said.

## James Baldwin Is Dead of Cancer at 63

By Lee A. Daniels

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — James Baldwin, whose passionate, intensely personal essays in the 1950s and '60s on racial discrimination helped break down America's color barrier, died of cancer on Monday night at his home in southern France. He was 63.

Mr. Baldwin's brother, David, was with him at his home in St. Paul de Vence when he died, according to Cynthia Packard, a friend and former assistant to the author, who said she had talked with David by telephone on Monday night.

At least in the early years of his career, Mr. Baldwin saw himself primarily as a novelist. But it is his essays that arguably constitute his most substantial contribution to literature.

Mr. Baldwin published his three most important collections of essays — "Notes of a Native Son" (1955), "Nobody Knows My Name" (1961) and "The Fire Next Time" (1963) — during the years when the civil rights movement was exploding across the American South.

Some critics said his language

was sometimes too elliptical, his indictments sometimes too sweeping. But then, Mr. Baldwin's prose, with its apocalyptic tone — a legacy of his early exposure to religious fundamentalism — and its passionate yet distanced sense of advocacy, seemed perfect for a period in which blacks in the South lived under continual threat of racial violence.

Despite his undeniable powers as an essayist, his novels and plays drew decidedly mixed reviews.

But the reception accorded his other works was at best lukewarm, and his frank discussion of homosexuality in "Giovanni's Room" (1956) and in "Another Country" (1962) drew criticism from within and outside the civil rights movement.

In a celebrated polemic in the late 1960s, Eldridge Cleaver, then a member of the Black Panther Party, asserted that the novels illustrated Mr. Baldwin's "agonizing, total hatred of blacks."

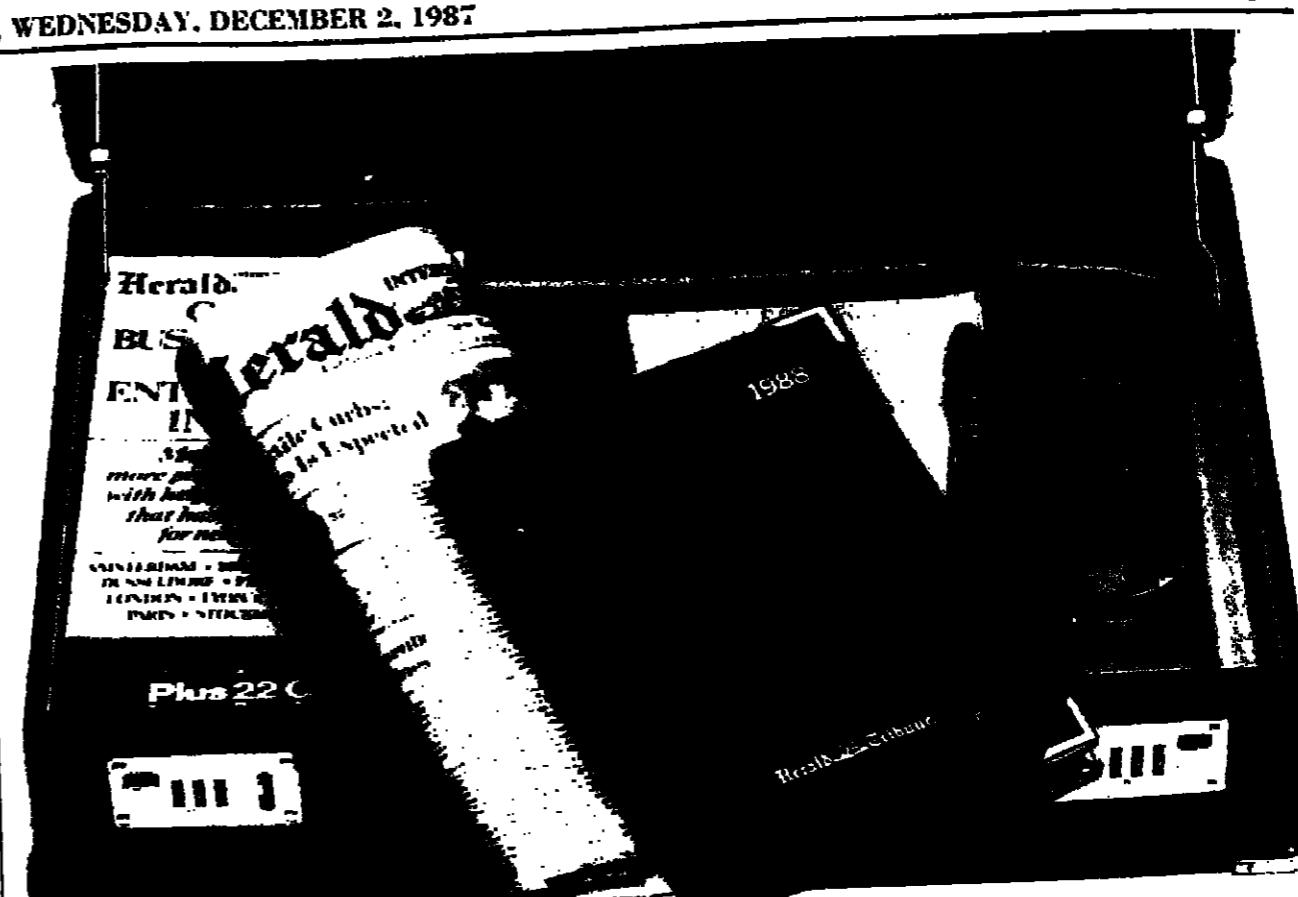
Mr. Baldwin's other works included the novel "Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone," the stage plays "Blues For Mr. Charlie," and "The Amen Corner," and "The Evidence of Things Not Seen," a long essay on the murders

### DEATH NOTICE

LONDON, ON NOVEMBER 27 peacefully in hospital in London. Basil David, dearly loved son of Maisie and father of Christopher, Anna-Rita, Nicky, Julian and Nicole. Funeral service at Farm Street Church 14 Merton Street, London W1 on Thursday 3 December at 10:30 a.m. followed by cremation at Putney Vale SW15 at 12:30 p.m. Flowers to J.H. Keayon Ltd, 49 Marlowe Road W8 Tel: (01) 9370757

A spokesman assumes that he is speaking for others, he told Julius Lester, a faculty colleague at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Some critics said his language



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## OPINION

INTERNATIONAL  
Herald Tribune

Published With The New York Times and The Washington Post

## Backward in Malaysia

Malaysia has been a singular favorite of diplomats, travelers and investors, a stable and flourishing country with regular elections and lively public debate. But corruption and ethnic tensions, manageable in boom times, are now festering, and the government has responded with drearily familiar steps: detention without trial, a ban on rallies, tightened secrecy.

Now Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad proposes harsh press laws that would stifle opposition. He says he acts to safeguard democracy and economic stability. Can he have any inkling how powerful these gag rules and his other strong-arm tactics speak to the outside who have been so important to Malaysia's success?

Mr. Mahathir was re-elected in 1986 by a record majority and vowed to set about improving Malaysia's troubled economy. But revolt soon broke out within his own party. In April he barely escaped losing his party leadership, and thus his office. Since then he has been tightening his grip on the press and the judicial system. In police raids late in October, 100 people were detained

without trial. Three newspapers were closed. The proposals now before Parliament would end any hope of an independent press or free speech. The government would be free to determine what "alarms public opinion" or is against the country's national interests. There would be no judicial appeal. The power to close newspapers and jail publishers, writers and public critics would be virtually unlimited.

Increasingly, people compare Mr. Mahathir and the former Philippine强人 Ferdinand Marcos. These comparisons have not escaped the Malaysian leader's attention. He greets them with sarcasm. "How many people have I shot?" he has asked reporters who raised the question.

Mr. Mahathir is not shooting people, but he is destroying democracy by undermining its institutions and shutting off debate. Perhaps if he understands how these actions repel many people around the world who have admired and invested in Malaysia, he might yet persuade Parliament not to approve the new press laws.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## The Price of Hostages

France, with other European countries, is firmly committed to limiting the spread of Iranian influence by arms or ideology. The French participate in the escort of Gulf shipping threatened by Iran, support the United Nations effort aimed at halting the Iranian invasion of Iraq and come second in arms sales to Iraq, after the Soviet Union. Yet in one aspect, hostages, they pursue a contrary policy of accommodating Iran. The public has been actively bent on recovery of the 10 French citizens taken hostage by Iranian-oriented terrorists operating in Lebanon. Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who is running for president, has made their recovery a personal priority.

Are the French paying too high a price? Not for the first time, the question arose during the weekend after the sixth and seventh hostages were released. It was the way the "war of the embassies" came to an end. In this six-month test of wills, French police had bottled up Iran's embassy, where an Iranian suspect in a deadly wave of bombings had taken refuge, and Iranian authorities then bottled up France's embassy, garnishing the offense by accusing a diplomat of spying. On Sunday the French whisked the Iranian suspect through a perfunctory hearing in an ostensibly independent French court and flew him out of the country, while

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

## The Haitians Need Help

When Sunday's election in Haiti was voided, it shattered hopes for democracy and denied Haitians their chance in 30 years to elect a president. The culprits are General Henri Namphy's junta, and the murderous Tontons Macoute thugs whose rampages gave the junta the pretext it needed to call off the vote.

The Reagan administration seems finally to have caught up with reality, and is suspending all but humanitarian aid to Haiti until the junta reschedules elections. Depending on how much is actually cut, this begins to atone for past wishful thinking about the general and his ability to protect democrats from gangs loyal to the deposed president for life, Jean-Claude Duvalier.

The danger remains that better-off neighbors will shrug off impoverished and anarchic Haiti as a hopeless case, and thus doom Haitians to life under dictatorship. Doing so also would shamefully betray Haitian democrats who returned after decades in exile to fight for freedom and human rights. It would undermine Washington's protestations of the need for free elections in Nicaragua.

Here is an opportunity for Latin American leaders to show that they care about democracy, and to demonstrate their seriousness about wanting to play a greater role in hemispheric affairs.

Democracy flourishes in the English-

speaking West Indies, as it does in the Dominican Republic, Haiti's Hispanic neighbor. With the right kind of external encouragement, an elected succession is possible in Haiti. Even would-be dictators realize Haiti's desperate need for international help, and that gives outsiders leverage.

Washington has taken the right first step in linking renewed help to a renewed commitment to elections. The next step should be to consider more direct action by Latin American democracies, perhaps even an inter-American force to help keep the peace and oversee the election. As masters stand, the junta cannot or will not do the job.

Outside intervention is a drastic step. But Latin Americans themselves, at a summit in Mexico that ended on Sunday, lamented the moribund nature of the Organization of American States. If nothing can be done for Haiti, then what can a revitalized OAS do? Turning to the OAS is preferable to doing nothing, or certainly to direct intervention by the United States, which was tried from 1915 to 1934.

Washington may well lose sight of Haiti as Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with President Reagan approaches. That would only compound Sunday's tragedy. There is no excuse, however, for other neighbors to offer lamentations and do nothing.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## Other Comment

## Anger Over the Hostage Deal

[Prime Minister Margaret] Thatcher is said to be furious about the French hostage deal with Iran. She should be, for it further undermines, perhaps fatally, the West's avowed policy of never negotiating with terrorists and their friends.

The release of an Iranian Embassy "official" suspected of being behind the 1986 Paris bombing that killed 13 people, and the lack of resolve that it speaks, is too high a price to pay for the dubious benefits of restored political links with Iran.

Western policy is now almost in ruins. The rot started with President Reagan's "arms for hostages" caper. Since then, the governments of West Germany and even South Korea have done their own deals.

We may free today's hostages. But only at the price of ensuring thereby that new hostages will be seized tomorrow. Every Westerner in the Middle East would be at risk. This is why Britain will not deal. And why France, in the name of humanity, should not have done so.

—The Daily Mail (London).

—The Daily Telegraph (London).

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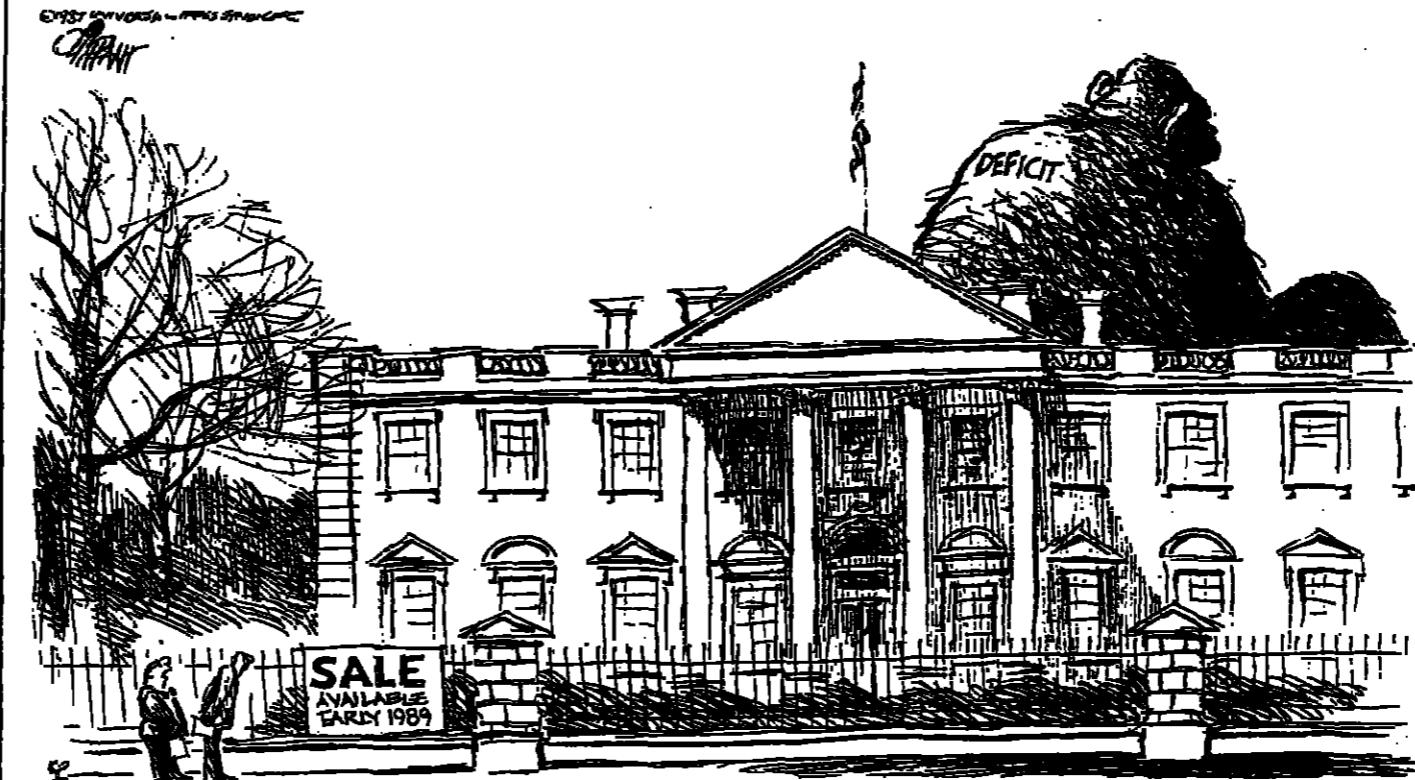
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'The gorilla goes with the house.'

## For Revived U.S.-Soviet Entente in the Middle East

By Gideon Rafael

JERUSALEM — When on Nov. 29, 1947, the president of the United Nations General Assembly announced the result of the vote on the UN partition plan restoring Jewish statehood in the ancient homeland of the Hebrew nation, we members of the Jewish delegation felt elation, but also foreboding.

Chaim Weizmann, the head of our delegation, saw in the decision the consummation of his lifelong struggle for the return of his people to Zion.

Mostly Sharett, who directed the diplomatic effort, accepted the compromise as the only means available to secure international legitimization for Israel's fight for independence. Jews felt that the days of redemption from dispersion and exile were coming after 2,000 years of suffering.

David Ben-Gurion, the ranking Jewish leader, while hailing the UN decision, perceived the possibility of war courtesy, apparently supposing that a declaration of war — but not the conduct of war — is a violation

of their UN Charter obligations. When the Arab armies began the fight 40 years ago they were confronted by 600,000 Jews living in the country. The Jews fought not only to defend their young state but for the survival of its citizens. Israel prevailed, losing 6,000 of its fighting youth.

Since then Israel has established itself as a vibrant nation, gathering multitudes of its dispersed people, building a modern society with its achievements and shortcomings, developing a scientific potential, forging a strong military arm for its defense and cultivating its spiritual patrimony.

With the exception of Egypt, which opted out after 30 years of costly and futile warfare, the Arab states still maintain the state of war, some actively and others passively. Five major wars have been the result. Although Israel emerged victorious from all of them, it failed to gain peace. Peace

ended both sides because the Arabs clung to the belief that Israel was a passing phenomenon and because Israel's vital military power was not matched by comparable political and economic strength. Every victory, while extending Israel's hold over the country, aggravated the problem of controlling an increasingly antagonistic Arab population.

Now the mood and outlook in important parts of the Arab domain are changing. There is a growing realization that a military solution to the conflict is impossible in the foreseeable future. That notion was strengthened by President Anwar Sadat's audacious initiative 10 years ago, which brought peace between Egypt and Israel and fundamentally altered the Arab-Israeli equation.

There is also a growing awareness among Palestinians that they themselves will have to come to terms with Israel, if they want to attain a mutually acceptable arrangement for a self-governing status.

The recent Arab summit meeting in Amman demonstrated convincingly the shift of priorities in the Arab world. The preoccupation with Israel has been eclipsed by anxiety over the outcome of the struggle between Islamic fanaticism and Arab nationalism.

The Arabs are beginning to see Israel more as an unwelcome but inevitable reality than as an actual threat.

Forty years are a fleeting moment in history, but the last 40 have been enough for revolutionary changes in most fields of human endeavor. The race between swiftly changing realities and the advance of rationality in social and political behavior will determine the fate of generations to come. Winning this race is the challenge to enlightened statesmanship.

In the momentous struggle between Islamic fundamentalism and Arab national modernism, rationality is gaining ground in the Arab world. The Arab states, Israel and the major powers are reassessing their policies. The Arabs seem to realize that perpetuation of the conflict is self-defeating and that living with Israel may be safer and more beneficial than fighting against it.

Israel feels strongly that its problem is not winning wars but achieving peace. Forward-looking leaders and citizens realize that it is not the size of the nation's territory but the composition, quality and spirit of its inhabitants that will determine its future as a state of Jewish creativity, democratic vitality and moral fortitude.

Obviously, this cannot go on. What is the sense in us in us insufficient resources left to use and distribute in the Philippines after such large net transfers abroad?

It may be that the extraordinary patience that President Aquino has shown in trying to secure voluntary cooperation from creditor banks to reduce the big payouts has been mistaken as a sign of weakness that should be exploited. But let me set the record straight. She has said repeatedly that growth will take precedence over debt. Our government is committed to honoring its obligations. But if we do not have enough resources, we cannot pay. And without growth there may not be anybody left in the Philippines willing to honor the debt.

We are planning for 3.65 percent rate of economic growth, on average, over the next few years. That would enable us to regain by 1991 our real per capita income levels of 1981. We have lost half a generation of development, with most of the burden borne by the poor. They cannot be expected to suffer endlessly in silence.

The Philippines, we realize, can only attain stability and sustainable growth if two conditions are met. The

## How Are Filipinos Expected to Pay?

By Solita Collas-Monsod

The writer is secretary of economic planning in the Philippines and director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

MANILA — With the installation of a democratic government in the Philippines in February 1986 came the admiration and sympathy of the world. Delegations from all over arrived with expressions of support for President Corazon Aquino and her administration.

The Marcos regime left a legacy of devastation. The economy had contracted by more than 10 percent after adjustment for inflation. Per capita income had fallen by 15 percent to levels of a decade earlier. Industry was operating at less than half of capacity. Ferdinand Marcos and his friends had milked the economy. Corruption was rampant. Some 50 percent of all families were living below the poverty line. Armed insurgency had become a serious problem.

Looming over this was a foreign debt that had ballooned from \$2.7 billion in 1972 to more than \$28 billion in 1986, an amount equivalent to 90 percent of our GNP. Repaying the interest and principal due on this debt required 61 percent of our annual merchandise exports. The loans were accumulated by the Marcos government with the enthusiastic cooperation of financial institutions. While the money did much to increase the personal wealth of Mr. Marcos and his cronies, it did little to improve the productive capacity of the Philippines.

When the dust from all the fact-finding missions from abroad cleared early this year, the Philippines found itself with the prospect of having to pay out to foreign bank and government creditors in the next six years — even under a new restructuring agreement concluded in March — \$18 billion more than the country could expect in financial assistance.

The Philippines, we realize, can only attain stability and sustainable growth if two conditions are met. The

first is that we put in place the economic, political and social reforms that will allow the most efficient use and equitable distribution of resources. The second is that our creditors and aid sources consent to lighten the burden of servicing the foreign debt sufficiently to leave us enough resources for domestic use and distribution.

Yet at a time when we need fresh infusions of money from abroad to repair the devastation in the Philippines, we are being required to pay out at a rate of more than 6 percent of GNP, on average. For 1986 and 1987, everyone highlighted the fact that we would be receiving \$2.7 billion, all from official sources. No one seems to have noticed that we would, in the same period, be paying out \$3.7 billion to official and private creditors.

We are being asked to bleed to death.

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## A Time for Progress in the Middle East

By Daniel Pipes

break out of the current impasse with Israel. None of them like the way things are, but they have few alternatives. Cooperation with Israel permits Jordan's government slowly to gain access to the West Bank. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt devotes the bulk of his attention to domestic problems.

President Hafez al-Assad of Syria has not achieved the "strategic parity" with Israel he deemed necessary before taking unilateral action. And, obviously, no one in Lebanon is in a position to do much about Israel.

Second, unlike the conflict with Israel, the war between Iraq and Iran demands concrete and immediate action. That brutal conflict — the fourth largest of the 20th century in numbers of deaths — has the potential to upset the existing order in the Middle East. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has moved Tehran from the periphery to the heart of the Middle East politics. His radical ideology and armed forces challenge the very existence of Arab regimes. An Iranian military breakthrough would revolutionize the Islamic revolution and threaten all of Iraq's five neighbors. It would lead to an assault on the Western presence in the Middle East and almost certainly disrupt oil supplies.

The Iran-Iraq war drives the main alliances in the region. Damascus is the outcast from Arab politics today, not Cairo, for everyone knows that alliance with Iran endangers the region far more than a peace treaty with Israel. The Arab states today must find more to stop Iranian expansion than they ever did against Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organization seeks political sovereignty, but however vital this goal is to Yasser Arafat, it lacks urgency for other Arabs, especially when compared to the Iranian threat. The Arab states today cannot afford the luxury of devoting their resources to this dream.

Arab leaders see no obvious steps to

sobriety in the Arab countries. The excited ideologies and inflated hopes of decades past have soared and died. After a host of plans — anti-Zionism, Arab unity, Arab socialism — a pragmatic sensibility has gained in strength. A new appreciation of the past emphasizes economics, democracy and the concerns of daily life.

This sobriety has great importance for the United States. Much improved U.S.-Arab relations can be made in many places, and extend even to the long hostile Iraqi state. Arab governments are now working with Washington in ways no one would have imagined a few years ago — for example, they are beginning to offer real military cooperation in the Gulf. The old stumbling block of American support for Iraq hardly seems to matter now. In effect, a U.S.-Arab alliance against Iran has taken shape.

Within the United States, too, discussion of the Middle East has taken on a new tone. The extreme partisanship that characterized debate over the Arab-Israeli conflict is giving way to a tactical examination of the Gulf. Palestinians and Israelis are arousing intense passions; the Iraqi air force and Iranian army demand sober analysis. A far more sensible discussion of American interests has resulted.

In short, a fundamental shift in Middle East politics is taking place, perhaps the most profound since the Arab states became independent after World War II. Despite the recent reversal of Soviet diplomacy in the region, these changes suggest that this is a moment of real opportunity for the United States in the Middle East.

The writer is director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute and editor of *Orbis*, its journal. He contributed this comment to *The New York Times*.

## 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

## 1



# Berlin Strides Toward Regaining Standing as Science Research Center

By Walter Sullivan  
New York Times Service

BERLIN — For half a century, ending in the 1930s, this city was the scientific capital of the world.

Here Max Planck and Albert Einstein helped lay the foundations of modern physics. Otto Hahn, Lise Meitner and Fritz Strassmann split the atom. Heinrich Hertz began the research that led to communication via radio waves. Here Robert Koch discovered the bacteria that cause anthrax, tuberculosis and cholera and Paul Ehrlich produced the first treatment for syphilis.

Berlin's glory began to fade as many of its stars fled the Nazis. It vanished when the city's core was destroyed by Allied bombers and Soviet gunfire.

Now, thanks to a combination of factors — reconstruction of a considerable measure of former glory, its location in the heart of Europe, a heavy infusion of funds from the West Germans and a new opening to the East — the Western-controlled part of Berlin is becoming a major science center, with research conducted by a half dozen institutes and government agencies.

It is unlikely that Berlin will ever regain its pre-eminent position in the world of science, for there are now too many competing centers. Still, it retains a special aura.

West Berlin is formed of western suburbs, which the city annexed as it expanded in the late 19th century. While West Germany treats the city's western sector as part of its territory,

Britain, France and the United States continue to occupy it militarily under the four-power occupation treaty. East Berlin, the sector allocated to the Soviet Union, comprises the heart of the old capital including Unter den Linden, the grand avenue flanked by ponderous government structures dating to the end of the last century and the time of Prince Otto von Bismarck, first chancellor of the German Empire.

The buildings have been rebuilt much as they were, including Humboldt University where Planck taught, one of East Germany's primary centers of learning. Along the avenue new Linden trees are maturing, but it is a far cry from the days of Bismarck.

No longer is it crowded with carriages carrying the wealthy or influential. Automobile traffic is sparse. East Berlin's Alexanderplatz and

Spittelmarkt on a Saturday morning are far livelier than a decade ago, with soldiers of the Western allies as well as East Germans seeking bargains in the department stores. But East Berlin still does not compare to the gaudy attractions and bustle of West Berlin.

It is the western part of the city that has begun playing a special role as a meeting place for researchers from East and West. Because of the city's special status and amenities, several institutions that organize international meetings or studies are here. They include the Wissenschaftskolleg, or Institute for Advanced Study Berlin, the Dahlem Conferences and the Aspen Institute Berlin, an affiliate of the Aspen Institute for Humane Studies in Colorado.

While the names of the West Berlin research centers reflect the old traditions, their concerns

are those of the present. Two institutes deal with gene research. Another, the Robert Koch Institute for Infectious Disease, is concentrating on acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The Heinrich Hertz Institute for Information Technology is working on new, high-resolution television systems. The Hahn-Meitner Institute is applying the latest tools of electricity-generating solar cells, heat-resistant jet engine materials and medical applications.

The Fraunhofer Institute for Production Systems and Design Technology, named for discoverer of the spectral lines that define composition of the sun's atmosphere, is designing "factories of the future." As envisioned by its director, Dr. Günter Spur, they would be partly

staffed by robots but still run like a ship of airliner, by "crews" of specialists.

At the German Heart Center Berlin, Professor Roland Hetzer has performed more than 100 heart transplants. He said they are now considered routine. Also based here is the Space Institute Berlin, headed by Dr. Reinhard Furrer, who as a payload specialist rode a mission on the U.S. space shuttle Challenger before its final flight.

On Oct. 11, West Berlin announced the formation of an Academy of Sciences, with a 1988 budget of 6 million Deutsche marks (\$3.6 million). In the eastern part of the city the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic is a descendant of the one founded there by the mathematician, Wilhelm Leibniz, in 1700. It reportedly has an annual budget of one billion East German marks, (\$600 million).

## POLAND: Program for Reform Is Caught in Limbo

(Continued from Page 1)

in a region where conservative Communists of the Brezhnev era still predominate.

Though government officials have insisted that the policy of change will continue, Polish political analysts say the authorities will have little choice but to back down from the doubling of basic food prices and tripling of rents and utility charges announced for next year. While lower price increases are negotiated with official unions, a crucial meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee next week will consider whether to alter the modest package of political reforms.

In some ways, several analysts said, the referendum may have helped the Communist leadership by allowing it to show responsiveness and flexibility in the face of widespread public discontent over the price rises, which was evident before the voting.

In this sense, the public announcement of unfavorable election results, a rare step in a Communist-ruled country, may have reflected the authorities' conviction that the battle to implement their "radical version" of economic policy had already been lost and the time had come to make concessions to the public.

"What happened was a kind of civilized version of what happened in Poland before," when workers rioted against price increases that were then revoked, said Andrzej Wroblewski, a prominent journalist. "Instead of waiting for an uprising the authorities accepted defeat in the election."

Yet even if the referendum result proves tactically advantageous, General Jaruzelski cannot avoid damage to his prestige, analysts said.

While both Polish and Western analysts say they believe General

Jaruzelski remains firmly in control of the party, the Central Committee session next week may provide a test of whether his authority is diminished. According to reports circulated by more liberal party activists, the general planned a shake-up of senior party officials at the meeting to consolidate party backing of the reform.

But now the general and his supporters must face the question of how to win over the majority of society that is now on record as unsupportive of the reform. This is an issue as paradoxical as it is frustrating to authorities.

Government officials suggest that part of the trouble is that while almost all Poles support reform of the Communist system in theory, many oppose practical measures that place their easy jobs at risk, link their pay to hard work, or place basic goods at realistic price levels.

## PLANE: Suspect in Crash of Korean Air Jet Kills Self

(Continued from Page 1)

traffic controllers in Rangoon, Burma, never sent any distress call.

"We have considered many possible cases," a Korean Air spokesman in Seoul said. "But by all indications bomb explosion is the most probable cause of the incident."

The plane was equipped with four engines and advanced communications systems," he said, "and any technical troubles should have been signaled. Only a sudden terrorist attack such as a bomb could have caused the crash."

Referring to the Japanese couple in Bahrain, the South Korean assistant foreign minister, Park Soo Gil,

said, "I very strongly feel that they may have planted the bomb," adding: "By all evidence available, that seems to be the case."

Many details about the possible involvement of the two Japanese remained hazy or conflicting; even their nationality was unsure Tuesday night.

According to officials in Tokyo, Shinichi Hachiyama's passport seems to be genuine, and a Shinichi Hachiyama is a Tokyo resident. On Tuesday night, Mr. Hachiyama, 69, was interviewed in Tokyo and was said to have offered an explanation of how someone might have gotten a passport in his name.

Mayumi Hachiyama's passport is

clearly a fake, Tokyo officials said. No passport with that number had been issued in that name, they said. Government officials in Seoul have warned that North Korea might commit sabotage to interfere with the South Korean presidential election, scheduled for Dec. 16, or to disrupt planning for the Olympics, to be held in Seoul next year.

Separately, Japanese police recently arrested a long-time fugitive member of the Red Army. He was arrested in Japan with a ticket to South Korea in his possession. The police said they also found a letter from the Red Army attacking the Olympics as a tool of U.S.-Japanese-South Korean imperialism.

Insisting that his "steady, strong and determined" dealings with

United Press International  
JACKSONVILLE, Florida — President Ronald Reagan said Tuesday that his goal for the summit meeting next week with Mikhail Gorbachev was not just the conclusion of an arms agreement but "true peace" predicated on progress across the board in U.S.-Soviet relations.

In insisting that his "steady, strong and determined" dealings with

Moscow had reaped results at the bargaining table, Mr. Reagan said his talks with Mr. Gorbachev could be a turning point in superpower relations.

In a speech to almost 9,000 local high school students, educators and parents, which was part of an aggressive public relations effort before the summit meeting, the president called on the Kremlin to back promises of improved relations with tangible changes in its strategic and foreign policies.

Calling Nixon-era détente "a warning in U.S.-Soviet affairs" that did nothing to discourage Soviet adventurism abroad and repression at home, Mr. Reagan said: "We do not want mere words. This time we're after true peace."

Administration efforts to dampen expectations of dramatic breakthroughs at the summit conference

did not preclude Mr. Reagan from setting ambitious objectives for his three days of talks with Mr. Gorbachev, which will be marked Tuesday by the signing of the first U.S.-Soviet arms accord in eight years.

In response to a student's question, Mr. Reagan defended his Strategic Defense Initiative, which is expected to be a focus of the summit meeting and the major block to a proposed 50 percent cut in strategic arsenals.

He also said he would advise Mr. Gorbachev "to really stick with his policy of *glasnost*" by improving human rights, and indicated he was not intimidated by the Soviet leader's popularity in Western Europe.

"I don't resent his popularity or anything else," he said. "Good Lord, I co-started with Errol Flynn once."

The official also said the U.S. Navy plans to rotate the barge to Kuwaiti waters to other locations farther north in the Gulf. The Kuwaiti-owned barge would be the third such mobile base the United States has positioned in the Gulf to support its escorts of American-flagged Kuwait tankers. The other two barges are kept in international waters.

The barges are used to store supplies and provide bases for special operations teams' helicopters and patrol boats. The two existing barges reportedly are armed with artillery and shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

U.S. military officials are "working out the details" of the new base, according to a statement released by Pentagon officials here.

The official also said the U.S. Navy's "solid sport" for the U.S.-Soviet accord is to destroy medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles. The Associated Press reported from Brussels.

The U.S. defense secretary, attending his first NATO Defense Planning Committee, also said he met privately with the Spanish defense minister and was told Spain would not change its demand that a U.S. jet fighter wing be moved to Torrejón outside Madrid before the meeting.

The Spanish rejection was an unexpected, since Spain served notice last month that it would renew a treaty allowing U.S. forces in Spain unless the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing leaves. The United States has 10,000 servicemen in Spain.

**Support on Missile Pact**

Mr. Carlucci said Tuesday he had obtained NATO's "solid support" for the U.S.-Soviet accord to destroy medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles. The Associated Press reported from Brussels.

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JACKSONVILLE, Florida — President Ronald Reagan said Tuesday that his goal for the summit meeting next week with Mikhail Gorbachev was not just the conclusion of an arms agreement but "true peace" predicated on progress across the board in U.S.-Soviet relations.

In a speech to almost 9,000 local high school students, educators and parents, which was part of an aggressive public relations effort before the summit meeting, the president called on the Kremlin to back promises of improved relations with tangible changes in its strategic and foreign policies.

Calling Nixon-era détente "a warning in U.S.-Soviet affairs" that did nothing to discourage Soviet adventurism abroad and repression at home, Mr. Reagan said: "We do not want mere words. This time we're after true peace."

## AMERICAN TOPICS

## In N.Y., Ground Swell Against Gigantism



THE NOSE KNOWS — Mattie, believed to be the first dog in the United States trained to sniff out flammable liquids used by arsonists, posing with a handler, Trooper Douglas C. Lancelot of the Connecticut State Police.

the time of the stabbing was on parole for a previous stabbing conviction. He faces up to 35 years in prison. Other witnesses failed to come forward said a police captain, Leonard Grochala, because "people don't like to get involved." Ms. Puzik said, "For my conscience I wanted to stay and tell what I saw. I wanted to tell the truth."

"It's getting out of control," said Sharon Coleman, a banker. "When does progress start to be destructive and lead to a loss of quality of life?"

## Short Takes

Ten persons witnessed a fatal stabbing at the Golden Arrow Cafe in Passaic, New Jersey, last March. The only witness to come forward was Zofia Puzik, a visitor from Poland. Her testimony convicted Luis Nunez, who at

the time of the stabbing was on parole for a previous stabbing conviction. He faces up to 35 years in prison. Other witnesses failed to come forward said a police captain, Leonard Grochala, because "people don't like to get involved." Ms. Puzik said, "For my conscience I wanted to stay and tell what I saw. I wanted to tell the truth."

Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services are urging repeal of a law that reduces Social Security benefits for elderly people who earn more than \$8,160 a year. They say the law forces many people to return to work. Senator William L. Armstrong, Republican of Colorado, has signed a bill permitting civilian employees at Griffiss Air Force Base at Rome, New York, to transfer some of their vacation time to a fellow employee suffering from breast cancer so she can use it as sick leave. Nancy L. Brady, 37, had used up all her own sick leave. The government objected to transferring sick leave but was amenable to transferring vacation leave. Representative Sherwood L. Boehlert, Republican of New York, introduced the special legislation.

The average starting salary for a lawyer last year was \$36,050 at a law firm, \$27,172 with the federal government and \$21,92 at a public interest organization, according to the National Association for Law Placement.

—ARTHUR HIGBEE

## Indonesia Is Reported to Step Up Efforts to End Isolation of Vietnam

By Michael Richardson  
*International Herald Tribune*

SINGAPORE — In an effort to prevent expansion of Chinese and Soviet influence in Southeast Asia, Indonesia has intensified its efforts to draw Vietnam out of isolation by expanding bilateral contacts and promoting a settlement of the Cambodian conflict.

Indonesian officials said Monday that the outcome of an informal meeting due to begin next week between leaders of the two rival factions in Cambodia would determine how far and how fast the Indonesian initiative could go.

The meeting is between Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of a resistance coalition that occupies Cambodia's seat in the United Nations, and Hun Sen, a leader in Phnom Penh supported by Hanoi and Moscow.

It will be their first encounter since Vietnamese troops entered Cambodia in 1978 to overthrow the Khmer Rouge regime, which had close links with China.

Vietnam and the Soviet Union said they regarded the meeting as a positive step. China indicated that it had no objections, although diplomats said the wording of Beijing's comments showed there was no enthusiasm for the meeting.

Singapore, one of the staunchest critics in Southeast Asia of the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, said last week that it welcomed Prince Sihanouk's initiative to explore all avenues for a political solution to the Cambodian problem by agreeing to meet Mr. Hun Sen in France.

Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian foreign minister, said Thursday that if Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen could narrow differences, it would open the way for further informal talks on national reconciliation in Cambodia. Those talks, he added, could be held in Jakarta in January.

## Tambo Refuses Talks Until Black Rule Is Set

By William Claiborne  
*Washington Post Service*

ARUSHA, Tanzania — Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress, said here Tuesday that there could be no peace negotiations with South Africa's white minority government until Pretoria committed itself unequivocally to black majority rule.

Mr. Tambo also said the ANC would not abandon its "armed struggle" until the South African government was ready to open real negotiations for a transfer of power to the black majority.

Responding to recent moves by the government of President Pieter W. Botha to remove obstacles to power-sharing talks with black leaders, Mr. Tambo said, "We are not interested in talking merely for the sake of dialogue."

He called for an intensification

of international economic sanctions to further isolate South Africa and force it to "abandon the tyranny of apartheid."

Mr. Tambo gave the opening address at a four-day conference in Tanzania attended by about 500 anti-apartheid campaigners and officials from 41 countries.

It was the first time that his 75-year-old group, the dominant black-liberation movement in South Africa, had organized an international conference in a bid to broaden its recognition as a government in exile and to raise funds for its activities.

The theme of the conference was "Peoples of the World Against Apartheid for a Democratic South Africa." The purpose, Mr. Tambo said, was to "shape the future" of the anti-apartheid movement's strategies, particularly on sanctions.

## THE FIRST GEORGIAN MALT WHISKY.



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Scotland's first malt whisky.

## A Chinese Farmer Fights to Prove the East Is Orange

By Edward A. Gargan  
*New York Times Service*

LIUQIYING, China — Yin Yongcheng, a bearded man in cap planted firmly on his head, walked among his orange trees, their fruit harvested now, and wondered about the future.

"I'm not sure I can go on," Mr. Yin said, scanning the 11-acre orchard that dotted the otherwise barren mountain like a four-day growth of beard.

A slight man who has worked the soil of this part of the northern province of Shaanxi much of his life, Mr. Yin has become a minor cause celebre in China.

The People's Daily, the official organ of the Communist Party, has portrayed him as an aggressive agricultural entrepreneur who has reached the brink of failure, undermined by rigid local bureaucratic attitudes.

The plight of Mr. Yin, who in many ways represents the direction agriculture in China must go if it is to modernize, points also to the obstacles faced by the country's senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, and Zhao Ziyang, the leader of the party, in their effort to insure the compliance of localities with national policy.

For Mr. Yin, of course, the cosmic problems of China's agricultural policies are, like Beijing, the capital, at best a remote concern. Rather, it is the health of his mountain where his trees grow and the antagonism of the village head, Yin Jinjue, and the township bosses, Zhao Qiwun, to his endeavors that preoccupy him.

"I was a farmer," the 38-year-old Yin Yongcheng explained. "Like everybody else, I grew paddy rice, some corn, cotton, peaches and grape vines, and over the next four years

nuts. Nobody had their own land at that time. That was 1983."

"I heard about the reform policies and was encouraged," he continued, referring to the national policy, begun in 1978, of dismantling collective agriculture and distributing land to individual households. "These new policies gave me courage to do something."

An agricultural school in the nearby town of Hanzhong had started planting a grove of orange saplings on a barren hillside above the village in 1982. Mr. Yin said that it seemed to him that by expanding the orchard

he could transform the bald, weathered hilltop into a flourishing orchard.

This year, for the first time, his trees and vines produced a good crop and he began repaying his loans. But this year also his problems with local officials began.

"I need to build a pond to irrigate the trees," Mr. Yin said. "I put forward the plan to the village and the township for a loan to go ahead. I asked for 28,000 yuan, or about \$5,500. They would not provide the money."

As a result, Mr. Yin was prepared to abandon the orchard until a reporter from the People's Daily arrived in the village this fall.

For People's Daily, the newspaper that speaks for China's leadership, Mr. Yin's problems are the truest test of whether the country will move ahead.

"Yin Yongcheng's plight," the paper wrote, "has a certain universality to it. The problems he has encountered are faced in varying degrees by others who contract to run enterprises. We hope that the telling of Yin Yongcheng's story will attract widespread thought and discussion."

Mr. Yin is still waiting for his loan. Accounts differ over who to blame for stifling Mr. Yin's ambitions.

According to People's Daily, local officials refused to make the loans to Mr. Yin because he had only a 10-year contract, the maximum permissible, and were afraid the money would not be repaid. At the same time, the officials would not consider extending the contract.

When questioned again recently, the officials seemed evasive. They said he did not know.

Zhao Qiwun, the township leader, blamed the backwardness of the region. Yin Jinjue, the village chief, said that he thought the issue would have been resolved anyway.

But an official from the nearby district government later conceded that the two local leaders were less than candid. "They didn't tell the truth," said Yan Kejian, an official in the foreign affairs department of nearby Hanzhong city, the agency that supervises contacts between foreigners and Chinese in this region of Shaanxi Province.

Yin Yongcheng said that some of his problems also stemmed from the resentment among villagers that he was better off than they were. Where once an old ramshackle mud brick house stood on the mountain ridge, he has built a five-room red brick home.

"My grandfather was landlord of this village," Mr. Yin said. Then, with a sigh, he continued, "I heard people saying that I was another landlord, that things were going back to the way they were. I think I'm not the new landlord. People have talked about me. Some of the people say the land I have now is much bigger than anyone had before the liberation and I have more laborers than my grandfather did."

As the depths of China's northern winter began to grip the village, Mr. Yin's 12 hired workers hurried to get fertilizer down and insecticide painted on the trunks of the orange trees. Next year, Mr. Yin said, he hopes to double the crop of oranges. But whether the orchard can, in the long run, survive without the irrigation plan that local officials do not seem willing to let him build, he said he did not know.

## YOUR ELECTRONIC NOTEBOOK

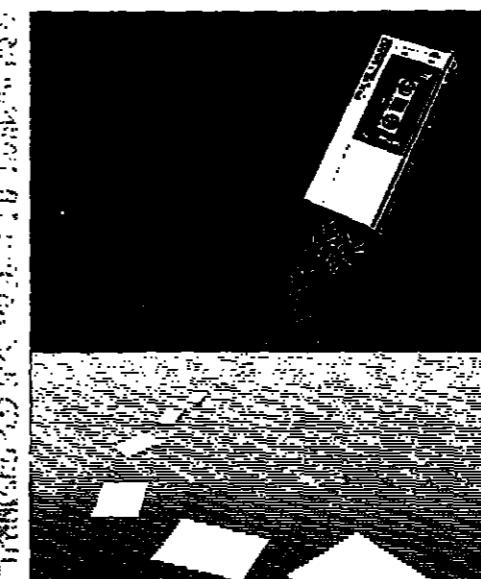
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(Continued from Back Page)

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## MADISON AVENUE

## Retirees' Magazine Wins Readers but Battles Image

By PHILIP H. DOUGHERTY

New York Times Service

**N**EW YORK — With its February-March issue, Modern Maturity, the six-a-year publication of the American Association of Retired Persons, will increase its circulation rate base 10.1 percent, to 17.4 million. It is on its way to becoming the largest magazine in the United States.

But while many magazines consider themselves misunderstood by media departments of ad agencies for one reason or another, Modern Maturity considers itself caught in the middle of what seems to be a reverse generation gap.

As explained by Ina S. Josephson, national sales manager, and Cary Silvers, director of research, the media people at agencies are prone to perceive the over-50 set as washed up.

**Media people at agencies are prone to perceive the over-50 set as washed up.**

"Young agency people really are turned off by that crowd," said Franchelle Caldwell, president of Caldwell Davis Partners, the magazine's agency for a couple of years.

"Even after you impress them with your numbers, they say, 'Uh-huh,' then don't do anything about it."

In hopes of making older readers easier to take, the magazine commissioned a \$60,000 study by the Daniel Yankelovich Group that compared the wants, needs, desires and pastimes of the over-50 group with those of the 39-to-49 set that media people can more easily relate to.

The study found more similarities than differences. And Modern Maturity's current trade campaign on how to advertise to senior citizens is based on it. Some of the themes: "Talk about romance," "Don't make a long story short," "Entertain them," and "Treat them like your brother, not your mother." The tagline, a carry-over from last year, is: "The beginning of a new lifetime."

The management is not discussing the possibility of Modern Maturity overtaking TV Guide and Reader's Digest to become the largest-circulation magazine in the United States. But it is a distinct possibility for 1988, since circulation grows by an average of 250,000 each issue.

Modern Maturity is one of the benefits to joining the American Association of Retired Persons. The group's annual dues are only \$5, and membership brings discounts for travel and car rentals as well as access to health and other insurance plans.

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**P**ETER H. Engel, who prefers to call sales promotion a marketing service, has big plans for his 8-year-old American Consulting Corp.

Mr. Engel is a former marketing executive for Procter & Gamble, Philip Morris and Colgate-Palmolive. His immediate expansion plans call for a package-design firm, specialty companies in the fields of music and sports marketing, and the addition of sales promotion experts in such categories as automobiles.

American Consulting serves such clients as Citicorp, Quaker Oats and Vintners International. But unlike most of its competitors, the company also has a field marketing force divided nationally into 12 zones. That is in keeping with the widely held belief that all marketing is local nowadays. An acquisition announced last week of the Kansas City franchise of the American Advertising Distributors, a coupon franchiser tied in with that philosophy.

Sales promotion has become quite controversial in the last few years, as annual expenditures in that category exceeded spending for media advertising. Agency people are quick to admit that the various gambits of sales promotion — cents-off coupons, sweepstakes and games, on-pack premiums and trade deals — all effectively help increase sales. But all of this is for immediate results, they say. None of it leads to building a brand franchise with the consumer as media advertising does.

## Bonn Sets Investor Incentives

## Discount Rate Also May Be Cut

By Ferdinand Protzman

International Herald Tribune

**F**RAKFRUT — The West German government will propose an investment incentive program Wednesday totaling 21 billion Deutsche marks (\$12.8 billion), government sources in Bonn said Tuesday.

However, some economists said that it would be a long-term and relatively inexpensive plan that would do little to mitigate the growing calls for faster-paced West German economic growth.

West Germany also appears to be on the verge of taking monetary policy action to support the flagging U.S. dollar. Banking sources in Frankfurt said the Bundesbank's policy-setting Central Bank Council is likely to lower the nation's discount rate Thursday from its current level of 3.0 percent. The discount rate is the fee charged on banks' borrowing from the central bank against securities as collateral.

But sources close to the Bundesbank said that the council, which holds its regular biweekly meeting Thursday, appeared divided on whether a cut of 0.25 or 0.50 of a percentage point is appropriate.

Also, some council members still do not support a cut, while others back a cut but believe it should come in the context of a concerted round of reductions by the major industrialized nations.

The final decision may rest on how the dollar fares Wednesday in foreign exchange trading. Further declines, one source said, would make a cut "almost unavoidable."

The Bundesbank, other Western European central banks and the Bank of Japan provided some support for the beleaguered U.S. currency Tuesday through coordinated dollar purchases in the open market.

A discount-rate cut, however, would do little to stimulate the West German economy.

"A West German discount-rate reduction at this point won't do anything for West German bond yields,"

See BONN, Page 15



## Sock Shop Takes Trans-Atlantic Hop

## A British Success Tries to Get Foothold in Manhattan

By Steve Lohr

New York Times Service

**L**ONDON — Four years ago, a 27-year-old named Sophie Mirman had a silly idea for a new business here: a shop that sold women's tights, stockings and socks.

She scoured the London financial district, trying to find investors willing to gamble £40,000 (then about \$64,600) on her idea. The bankers who did not ignore her laughed. They pointed out that the hosiery market was saturated, dominated by big department stores, and that her socks-only concept would never make it.

"A West German discount-rate reduction at this point won't do anything for West German bond yields,"

See BONN, Page 15

The Sock Shop has become one of the fastest-growing specialty retailing businesses in Europe and the company is now planning its first stores in the United States. All figures are in millions of dollars, calculated at the current exchange rate of \$1.77 to the pound.

**Expanding Business for the Sock Shop**

**Chain is one of the fastest-growing specialty retailing businesses in Europe. Ms. Mirman and her partner, Richard P. Ross, who is**

**ment loan — the founders figured that if things went really well, they might some day be running a group of four, or maybe even six, stores. "We never dreamed it would be this successful," said**

**Ms. Mirman, Sock Shop's chairman.**

**These days, she speaks of the future in terms of a global empire with several hundred outlets.**

**As if in preparation, the company has been named Sock Shop International PLC.**

**In its first foray, Sock Shop has taken its "silly idea" across the Atlantic, opening three stores in Manhattan. Following the same approach as in London, the stores are on sites with a lot of walk-by**

**signs.**

**Today, the 52-store Sock Shop**

**ultimately came from a govern-**

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## Royal Bank Takes Loan-Loss Charge

**Reuters**  
MONTREAL — Royal Bank of Canada said Tuesday it had taken an after-tax charge of \$80 million in Canadian dollars (\$610 million) in its third quarter to boost loan-loss reserves, resulting in a net loss of \$28.7 million dollars for the year ended Oct. 31.

Royal Bank also announced that it would purchase 75 percent of Nova Scotia and Dominion Securities Ltd. for \$85 million dollars.

The third-quarter charge repre-

sents a 1.4 billion dollar increase in the bank's loan-loss provisions for other countries. Royal Bank said its cumulative provision for lending to nations now totals about 2 billion dollars, or about 37 percent of total loans to other countries.

Operating profit for the year ended Oct. 31 rose to \$41.3 million before the charge, an 11 percent gain from \$48.9 million dollars a year earlier.

Loan-loss provisions for the year rose to \$42 million dollars from \$17

million, the bank said. Earnings from international operations fell to \$7 million dollars from \$28 million.

Royal Bank said it would offer 23 dollars a share for all publicly held stock in Dominion Securities and for 67.6 percent of the shares held by Dominion employees, for a total holding of 75 percent.

It said it would pay one-third in cash and two-thirds in Royal Bank common stock. Royal Bank said it planned to issue stock to complete the Dominion Securities transaction, but that it had no plans to raise additional equity capital.

The transaction is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to be completed early in February, Royal Bank said.

The purchase will "considerably broaden the range of financial products we can offer to corporate and consumer clients, and contribute to the bank's overall profitability," Royal Bank's chairman, Allan Taylor, said.

Royal Bank said it intended to maintain the operations of Dominion Securities as an autonomous firm separate from the bank. Outside North America, Dominion will work closely with other operating units in Royal Bank's international franchise banking network, including Orion Royal Bank.

## Canadian Bank To Buy 40% of Philippine Bank

**Reuters**

MANILA — The government has approved the sale of 40 percent of Consolidated Bank & Trust Co., a Philippine bank, to the Bank of Nova Scotia of Canada for 357 million pesos (\$17 million), said the central bank deputy governor, Gabriel Sungon.

He was quoted Monday by the newspaper Business Globe as saying that the Bank of Nova Scotia had converted its exposure in the local bank into equity. Mr. Sungon said the Bank of Nova Scotia was one of the country's 483 creditor banks, and that its purchase of the holding would reduce Manila's debt by \$17 million.

He also said that as of Nov. 26, the central bank had approved 114 applications to convert \$353 million worth of debt into equity out of a total of 286 applications worth \$1.4 billion received since the swap program began in August 1986.

Twenty-four applications valued at \$207 million had been turned down by that date, he said, but he offered no reasons.

## Allied-Lyons Profit Climbs 33% on Strong Food Sales

**Reuters**

LONDON — Allied-Lyons Group PLC, one of Europe's biggest food and beverage companies, reported Tuesday that pretax profit rose 33 percent to 219.7 million (\$360.64 million) in the first half of its fiscal year from £14.8 million a year earlier.

The profit amounted to 17.5 pence per share in the 28-week reporting period ending Sept. 19, up from 13.4 pence a year earlier. Revenue rose 26 percent, to £2.14 billion from £1.7 billion.

Net profit after tax rose 41 percent, to £144.2 million from £102 million. Analysts said the results were in line with market expectations.

They said the gain reflected a particularly strong performance by the company's food business, as well as by the Canadian distillers Hiram Walker-Gooderham & Worts Ltd., which Allied-Lyons acquired a 51 percent stake last year. Allied-Lyons acquired the remaining 49 percent last month.

Daniel Leaf, an analyst with the stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie, said that Allied-Lyons was not performing as well in its beer division.

Calor said revenue amounted to £132.7 million, a 5 percent decline from £136.4 million a year earlier.

optimistic about the outcome for the year.

Also reporting Tuesday was Trafalgar House PLC, the property, engineering and shipping group, which said pretax profit rose 12 percent to £163.2 million in the year ending Sept. 30, from £145.8 million a year earlier.

Operating profit rose 19 percent to £194.3 million from £162.9 million. Net profit after tax rose 16.7 percent, to £127.3 million from £105 million.

Norco PLC, a building products and packaging group, said that pretax profit in the six months to Sept. 30 rose 22 percent to £4.6 million, or 12.6 pence a share, from £2.07 million, or 9.5 pence a share, a year earlier.

Revenue rose to £343.5 million, a 10 percent gain from £311.8 million, while net profit after tax rose 32 percent to £16.6 million from £12.5 million.

Calor Group PLC, an oil and gas exploration and distribution company, reported a 4 percent drop in pretax profit in the six months to Sept. 30, to £17.5 million from £18.3 million a year earlier.

Calor said revenue amounted to £132.7 million, a 5 percent decline from £136.4 million a year earlier.

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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- \* Developers to carry out the construction of hotel units within the framework of this project.

\* Representatives to market the tourist apartments and plots of land for the construction of villas, in:

Middle East (Saudi Arabia - Kuwait - Qatar - UAE), Far East (Japan), Europe (Belgium - Great Britain - Holland - France - Italy - Switzerland - Sweden) and America (North America - Canada - United States).

For further information, please contact:

**MONTAZAH TABARKA,**

66 avenue de l'Indépendance, 1000 Tunis, Tunisie.

Tel: 233 777/233-784 Telex: 15268 MONTA

publisher of

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## Paribas Says Portfolio Lost 10% of Value in Stock Crisis

**Reuters**

PARIS — The value of securities held by Compagnie Financière de Paribas has fallen by more than 10 percent because of the nosedive in stock market prices, the bank's chairman reported.

Michel François-Poncet said Monday that the estimated per share asset value of the bank's portfolio stood at 430 francs (\$77) at the end of November, down from 489 francs at the end of June. Paribas was privatized by the government in February.

Citing the stock market crash, Paribas recently reduced its profit forecast for 1987, predicting that the figure would be level with the 1.68 billion francs in attributable net profit posted for 1986.

But Mr. François-Poncet said that the plunge in stock prices had no effect on Paribas' group banking activities. He said that Paribas' capital market activities had posted a profit because increased business volume after the collapse brought in more commissions.

"But Crédit du Nord, the deposit banking network that is 51 percent held by Paribas, suffered losses on the Matif financial futures market, the company said, and is no longer expected to break even by the end of 1987."

The subsidiary's net loss for 1987 is expected to exceed its loss for the first half, which amounted to 115.5 million francs, he added. He said that Crédit du Nord posted a net loss of 45.8 million francs in 1986.

Mr. François-Poncet said that if Paribas took over the remaining 49 percent of Crédit du Nord held by the French government, closer cooperation would be needed with other European banking groups. He said that such a move would not come before the end of the year, but provided no further details.

The chairman also said that Banque Paribas, the group's main banking subsidiary, was planning to regroup all of Paribas' international banking units. He said that the restructuring would not change the group's capital gains or profits.

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As long as man can remember, gold has been the standard of wealth.

It has been the best insurance against inflation and times of trouble.

More secure than empires, certainly more secure than paper.

And now there is a new, simple way to buy it.

The new Britannia coin contains one ounce (31.1035 grms) of pure gold.

It is guaranteed by the British Royal Mint, the oldest mint in the world.

## SOCKS: British Specialty Chain Takes a Trans-Atlantic Hop to Manhattan

(Continued from first finance page)

Convenience is key to Sock Shop's popularity. Ms. Mirman is fond of comparing her stores to newsstands, saying, "People should be able to buy socks and stockings as easily as they buy newspapers."

Whether the Sock Shop formula will be a hit in New York is unpredictable. There are, to be sure, notable differences in fit, styles and taste in the two countries. In Britain, for example, about half of all long hosiery sales are stockings held up by garters, while in the United States 95 percent of the sales are of tights.

Yet Sock Shop is convinced there is an opening for its stores, offering a vast array of colors, sizes and styles, in a U.S. hosiery market that Mr. Ross notes, "tends to be a little dull."

The market that explains Sock Shop's success in Britain appears to be even more dominant in New York: busy working women. Given a choice, these women, based on the British experience, want stylish hosiery without the bother of wadding through a department store.

"The Sock Shop concept should be absolutely transferable to the United States," said Jenny Nibbs, a retail analyst at Capel-Cure Myers, a London brokerage.

In Britain, Sock Shop outlets are on crowded city streets, train stations, subway arcades and at airports.

They are small, ranging from 400 to 1,200 square feet (36 to 108 square meters). There is no door, as such, so a passerby tends to follow her eye into the store. Busier shops will have as many as 1,000 people enter in a day. Rock music plays in the background, the cash register in the foreground.

The walls are arrayed with socks, stockings and tights, sheer and opaque, of every description, with hundreds of styles. In the United

States, they will range in price from \$1.99 to \$40 a pair, with top-end items being such things as tights with gold face. The socks feature bold colors and playful designs, some with zebras, parrots, Christ-

mas motifs, geometric shapes and the like.

By now, 70 percent of Sock Shop's merchandise bears its label, much of it created by the company's own design team. One could scarcely dispute Ms. Mirman's claim: "Socks like this didn't exist a few years ago."

Sock Shop now carries men's socks as well, which account for 15 percent of total sales, though they are mostly bought by women for their husbands and friends.

In 1983, Ms. Mirman and Mr. Ross opened their first shop with money from the government's loan-guarantee program, intended to help entrepreneurs who are short on capital. That first shop was literally under the nose of the famed Harrods department store, in the Knightsbridge subway station concourse. Their "stockroom" was a few drawers generously lent to them in a nearby shop.

From the first day, when they sold three times as much as they had anticipated, Sock Shop has been a success. When it had grown to a dozen stores, the company had the clout to order socks and tights made to its own design.

Sock Shop has expanded rapidly in the last two years, opening 20 stores last year and 25 this year.

Sales and profits have grown. In the year ended in September, for which figures have not yet been reported, analysts expect Sock Shop to post pretax profits of £1.7 million, or about \$3 million, on sales of £12.5 million. That is more than seven times the profits made two years earlier. In the current year, most analysts predict profits will jump 75 percent on a similar sales increase.

It is available from all banks and brokers.

And there are three other coins, which contain half an ounce (15.55 grms), a quarter of an ounce (7.78 grms), and one tenth of an ounce (3.11 grms) of gold.

Their price, of course, is determined by the current price of gold.

Which, in the long term, has always risen.

The new Britannia from The Royal Mint.

THE ROYAL MINT



## L'ART D'ÊTRE UNIQUE

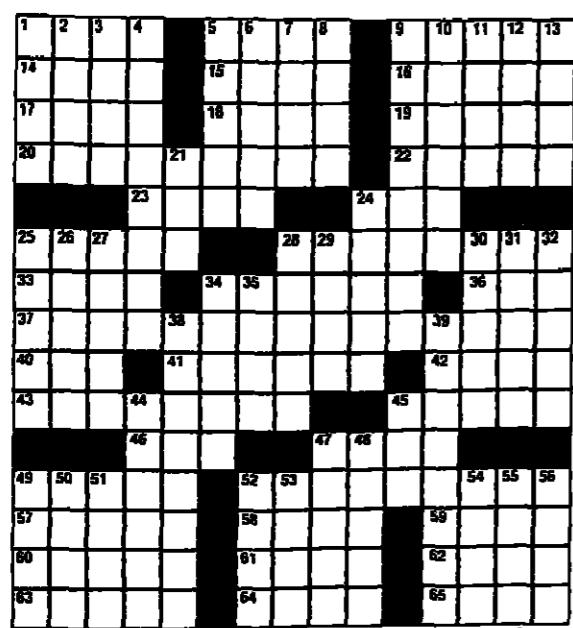


PARIS LONDON NEW YORK MONTE-CARLO GENEVA MILAN

**Cartier**  
JEWELLERS  
since 1847







**ACROSS**

- 1 Yule fuel, sometimes
- 5 Fill
- 9 Tree pod
- 14 Cruising
- 15 Word with Major or Minor
- 16 Martini garnish
- 17 Danube feeder
- 18 March
- 19 Chicago suburb
- 20 Casino employee, perhaps
- 22 Shies away
- 23 Eye: Fr.
- 24 N.B.A. player at Phoenix
- 25 Doesn't own
- 28 Writes or says easily and quickly
- 33 — Want for Christmas...
- 34 Roman officials
- 36 Particulate
- 37 Casino employee
- 40 A. in Bonn
- 41 Quays
- 42 Actor: Mark Baker

**DOWN**

- 1 Secular
- 2 Greek peak
- 3 Rig
- 4 Bitting
- 5 Japanese dish
- 6 Of's region
- 7 Rigid ruler
- 8 Wild West hero
- 9 Agitate
- 10 Far-out visitors
- 11 Stir up anger
- 12 Extra
- 13 Harry's mate
- 21 Sink like Sol
- 24 Spring sellers
- 25 Nobelist in Chemistry: 1919
- 27 Old TV game show
- 28 Used a kitchen gadget
- 29 Actress Sommer
- 30 Stan's pal
- 31 Sarah
- 32 Polyopodes
- 34 Oust
- 35 Exaggerator
- 36 Seaport on the Baltic
- 39 Stray feline
- 40 Dodecanese capital
- 45 Concorde
- 47 Value
- 48 Knit
- 49 Pink
- 50 Kingston
- 51 N.F.L. team
- 52 Skift
- 53 — into (attack strongly)
- 54 Seep
- 55 Stingy
- 56 Poet Millay

© New York Times, edited by Eugene Maleska.

### DENNIS THE MENACE



"MR. WILSON, YOU'VE BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME. DID YOU EVER FIGHT A DRAGON?"

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to a square, to form four ordinary words.

**GEREM**

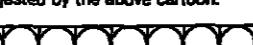
**LEVED**

**NALDAV**

**MERDIP**



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: 

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: TRAIT PIECE SQUIRM FRACAS

Answer: "He knows what star it is!" — "ARE YOU SIRIUS?"

### WEATHER

#### EUROPE

	HIGH	LOW	ASIA	HIGH	LOW
Algarve	12	5	—	—	—
Amsterdam	3	2	33	33	20
Barcelona	7	4	45	41	34
Belgrade	7	4	—	—	—
Berlin	9	4	32	28	22
Budapest	4	1	39	37	29
Copenhagen	14	7	11	11	7
Cordoba Del Sol	14	7	21	21	14
Dublin	9	4	34	32	24
Edinburgh	12	7	—	—	—
Florence	4	3	36	35	26
Frankfurt	4	3	35	34	25
Geneva	4	3	35	34	25
Grand Cayman	22	15	44	44	34
Las Palmas	22	15	44	44	34
Lisbon	8	4	34	32	24
Madrid	9	4	34	32	24
Munich	12	7	34	32	24
Nuremberg	12	7	34	32	24
Paris	3	2	34	32	24
Prague	12	7	34	32	24
Ravkjavik	12	7	43	43	34
Rome	12	7	34	32	24
Roskilde	12	7	34	32	24
Stuttgart	10	5	34	32	24
Venice	10	5	34	32	24
Vienna	10	5	34	32	24
Zurich	3	1	34	32	24

#### MIDDLE EAST

	12	5	0	32	0
Akko's	—	—	—	—	—
Ba'al	—	—	—	—	—
Damascus	15	5	10	32	0
Istanbul	15	5	10	32	0
Tel Aviv	24	15	39	32	0

#### OCEANIA

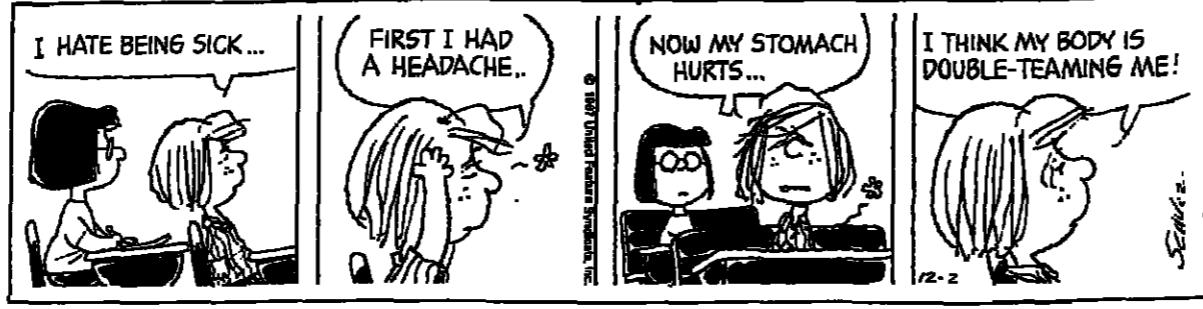
Adelaide: —

Sydney: —

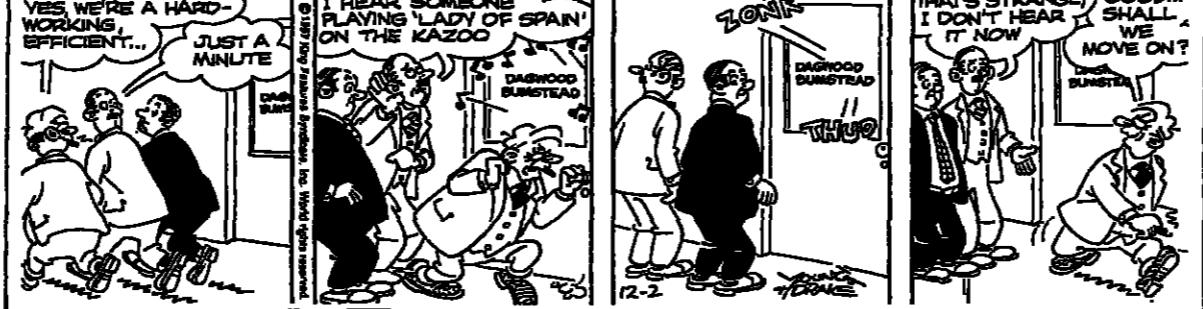
—: cloudy; foogy; h-hall; h-hall; h-overcast; h-poorly; cloudy; h-rain;

cl-showers; sw-showers; st-showers.

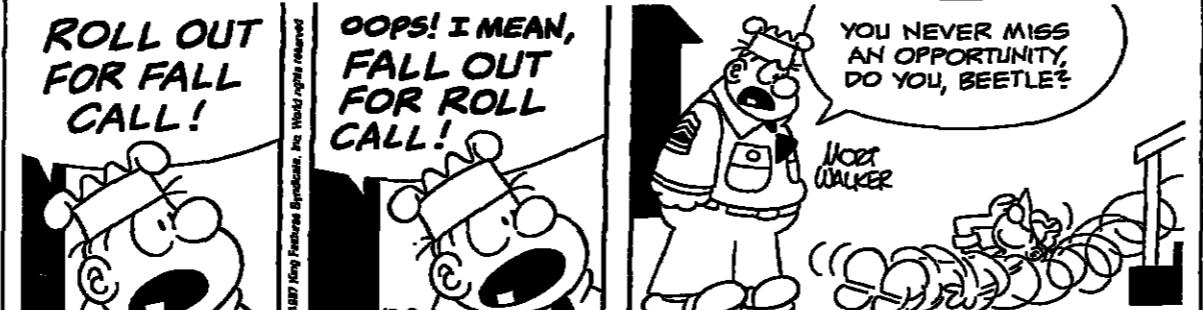
### PEANUTS



### BLONDIE



### BEETLE BAILEY



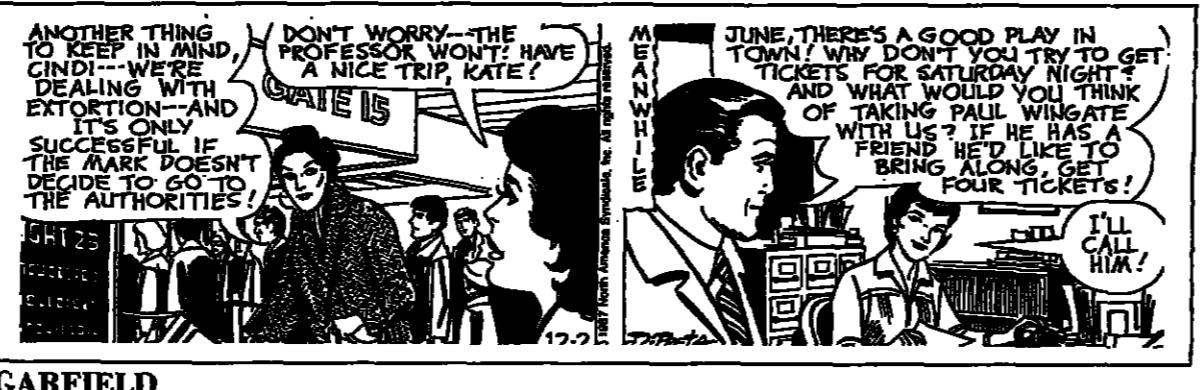
### ANDY CAPP



### WIZARD OF ID



### REX MORGAN



### GARFIELD



### BOOKS

#### TIDINGS

By William Wharton. 259 pages. \$17.95. Henry Holt, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10175.

Reviewed by Larry Heinemann

FOR his latest novel, "Tidings," William Wharton, the author of "Birdy," "Dad," and "A Midnight Clear," uses the tradition and ritual of a family gathering to explore relations between husband and wife, man and woman, parent and child, brother and sister — the fabric and weave of a family.

The story itself is remarkably simple. Will, a philosophy teacher at the American College in Paris, and his wife, Loretta, have invited their four grown children to celebrate Christmas at their summer place — a 300-year-old mill in the French countryside. The day after Christmas is Will and Lori's 30th wedding anniversary — another significant family ritual celebration. Each member of the family brings abundant presents as well as secrets to share and other secrets to keep. Will decorates the mill with holly, picks up his wife and Ben, the youngest son, born on the eve of Christmas Eve. "Maybe that's why Christmas means so much to us," Will says ruminating. Peg, Nicole and Mike drive down from Paris bundled up and loaded with presents in the second of Will's rattrap cars — no heater, windows won't close, bad tires. He's one of those men who are sloppy but methodical.

Will fishes a Christmas tree from the woods, brings it back to the mill and sets it up in the hole in the middle of the millstone next to the hearth. The family gathers next to the hearth and decorates the tree, complete with candle instead of modern strings of lights.

On Christmas Eve the family goes to church in the village, then to a traditional celebration with the dairy farmers and the local workers and townfolk. There is much loud music and the hard, wild stomping of the local folk dance. Everyone comes home to the mill and goes to bed, and one by one they drop off to sleep.

Then Wharton, the pseudonym of a painter living in Paris, as the teller of this story does something that makes "Tidings" a curious and wonderful book. To pass the time before morning, each of the characters steps forward with a dramatic monologue, revealing much more than we have yet learned of who each is why each has come to the mill for this Christmas, especially, and then something of the secret

each carries. It is as if each takes a moment that moment before the fullest, blundest sleep, to speak to us. And here — in the secret they tell us — lies the greatness of this novel. There is in every healthy family a privately discovered set of rituals and customs, traditions repeated year after year, cherished and welcomed because of the pleasure of remembrance they give us; they remind us of our blood ties, shared love and fellowship — the greatest gift of our human-ness, our communion for one another, and our humanity. "Tidings" is virtually an essay on the subject of our boundless capacity to give from our hearts to receive tidings of great joy.

Larry Heinemann, the author of "Pax," says, "Read this review for the Los Angeles Times."

#### BEST SELLERS

The New York Times  
This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 booksellers throughout the United States. Weeks on list are not consecutive.

FICTION	NONFICTION
1 THE TOMMYKNOCKERS, by Stephen King	1 FREE TO BE A FAMILY, edited by Marc Thomas with Christopher Cerf and Leah Cottin Pogrebin
2 KAI EIDOSCOPE, by Danielle Steel	2 THE DISCOVERY OF THE TITANIC, by Robert D. Ballard with Rick Atchison
3 THE BOUQUET OF THE VANITIES, by Judith Krantz	3 THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF 1990, by Ravi Barnes
4 LEAVING HOME, by Garrison Keillor	4 SPYCATCHER, by Peter Wright with Paul Greenberg
5 HEAVEN AND HELL, by John Jakes	5 LOVE, MEDICINE & MIRACLES, by Michael S. Sparer
6 PATRIOT GAMES, by Tom Clancy	6 WEIL, by Bob Woodward
7 PREMISED INNOCENT, by Scott Turow	7 FAMILY: The Ties That Bind, and Gag!, by Emma Bovard
8 BELOVED, by Toni Morrison	8 THE CAT WHO CAME FOR CHRISTMAS, by T. H. White
9 SARUM, by Edward Rutherford	9 MAN OF THE HOUSE: The Life and Political Memoirs of Speaker Tip O'Neill, by William Novak
10 THE DOOMED PLANET, by L. Ron Hubbard	10 TERRIFYING ON CHAOS, by Tom Peters
11 BLUE CARD, by Kurt Vonnegut	11 THE DISCOVERY OF THE TITANIC, by Robert D. Ballard with Rick Atchison
12 THE PLAZA, by Barbara Krasin	12 AND THE BAND PLAYED ON, by Ranulph Fiennes
13 A SOUTHERN FAMILY, by Call Godwin	13 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE SOVIET UNION, (Collins Publishers)
14 MISERY, by Stephen King	14 THE CLOSING OF THE AMERICAN MIND, by Allan Bloom
15 RUBBER LEGS AND WHITE TAIL HAIR, by Patrick F. McManus	15 SEVEN STORIES OF CHRISTMAS LOVE, by Leo Baeza

ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISCELLANEOUS
1 FREE TO BE A FAMILY, edited by Marc Thomas with Christopher Cerf and Leah Cottin Pogrebin
2 THE DISCOVERY OF THE TITANIC, by Robert D. Ballard with Rick Atchison
3 THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF 1990, by Ravi Barnes
4 SPYCATCHER, by Peter Wright with Paul Greenberg
5 LOVE, MEDICINE & MIRACLES, by Michael S. Sparer
6 WEIL, by Bob Woodward
7 FAMILY: The Ties That Bind, and Gag!,

## SPORTS

## Soccer's Hard Men Flirt With the Limits of the Law

*International Herald Tribune*

is if each takes a moment  
the fullest, brightest  
and here in the  
the greatness of a people  
healthy family and a  
rituals and customs  
after a year, charmed  
of the pleasure of work  
love and fellowship of  
man-kind, our country  
and our humanity, let  
say on the subject of  
of great joy.

an, the author of "Pride  
for the Los Angeles  
T SELLERS

in New York Times  
books over than 100,000  
Weeks for the Los Angeles  
FICTION

KNOCKERS by Stephen  
OPE, in *Darkness and  
ONE in *Guilty Pleasure*  
ID HELL by John Clea  
AMES by John Clea  
INNOCENT by John Clea*

W. John Clea  
Edgar and Ruth  
ED PLANET by John Clea

D. K. Kurt Vonnegut  
AN Barbara Parker  
KAN MARY by Gail Gail

Stephen King  
EGS AND WHITE TAIL  
F. Mervin

NONFICTION  
DE with Christopher Goff and  
P. Goff  
BY BILL COOK  
AT DEPRESSION OF 1929

EDDIE & MIRACLES by  
D. Woodward

The *Big Book* and *Get  
Junk* and *Get  
Junk*

WHO CAME FOR CHRIST  
Cleveland Amherst

THE HOUSE The Life  
and Death of Speaker Tip O'Neill

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## OBSERVER

## Singular Vexations

By Russell Baker

**N**EW YORK — Among matters that leave me non-plussed is the question why nobody says "non-plussed" anymore. Now someone will want to write a letter saying: "Wrong again, Mister Know It All. I said 'non-plussed' just last Tuesday."

Please, whoever you are, do not write that letter. The offending sentence was written only to demonstrate another non-plussing language question: Why is nobody singular?

Note the construction: "nobody says," says the sentence. Not "nobody say." People say, but nobody says. The reason people say a sensible, People are plural. Plurals say. Says is what a single speaking person, place or thing does.

So in saying "nobody says," as grammarians say we should, we are calling nobody singular. This is obviously absurd. Unexisting nobody can no more be singular than plural, since inexistence and number are logically incompatible.

But let us not fall between the stools of Wittgenstein and Plato when there are more interesting places to fall. Through the cracks, for example.

Take a typical case: Erroneously arrested at the airport because a computer has confused her with a notorious terrorist, an Asbury Park divorcee is taken to a jail. Her incarceration loses the documents needed to remind somebody that she is locked up, so she remains jailed for decades. Then, when she is dithering and senile, the overseer is discovered by a reporter. This provokes a government agent to issue a statement noting that nobody (our singular old friend again) has anything to apologize for because the now ancient woman just fell through the cracks.

Until the cracks suddenly appeared for people to fall through, the United States had only incompetents whose incompetence often resulted in dreadful things being done to innocent people. Afterward, victims of incompetents' incompetence often received an apology from the corporation or bureaucracy that had ruined them, and sometimes even a little money.

Then came the cracks, and it was a new world, a fantastic world,

where everybody knew the odds and nobody had the right to cry anymore when the payoff was a kick in the ribs.

Suddenly everybody knew the cracks were there. With so many people being born and so many computers sitting around waiting to make no-fault computer errors, it was inevitable that a certain percentage of losers had to fall through the cracks.

You may be wondering, where are these treacherous cracks? Are they in the safety net?

No, the safety net, remember, was constructed by the president and David Stockman six years ago to catch the kind of people who lacked the moxie to get off welfare and become successful investment bankers.

The safety net has not been mentioned for so many years now (maybe almost two and a half) that the very words, "safety net," have a musty old smell to them. People are not embarrassed to remember something so out of date should recall that the safety net had holes, not cracks. Sometimes somebody fell through a hole in the safety net. It was entirely different from falling through the cracks, though both experiences can be equally vexing.

Speaking of which, very little vexing goes on anymore. Instead of putting up with the worst by falling into a calm and civilized state of vexation, people nowadays tend to steam dangerously in such hyperthyroid states as infuriation and absolute outrage.

Not surprisingly, they blow their tops, knock heads together, crack a few skulls, go for the jugular, kick a little of this, that and the other, and revel in their machismo with gusto.

Speaking of gusto, some half-mad lover of the subjective mood is doubtless already penning, or more likely word-processing, a letter exuberantly denouncing me as a nimby for the second paragraph of this column in which appear the words "whoever you are."

I know that letter: "How did you ever pass Pedantry 101 in college?" it asks. "The only possible form is 'whoever you may be.'"

To be honest, the subjunctive leaves me non-plussed. Not half as non-plussed, though, as people who write letters about it.

Edna loves cops. She loves murders and

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